

On the part of Wellington, a considerable portion of Lord Hill's corps was still available as a reserve. On the side of Bonaparte, the Imperial Guard had been kept in reserve, and had been for some time formed on the heights which extend from La Belle Alliance towards Hougomont, and covered their left flank. With these devoted men Bonaparte resolved to make a last desperate effort to break the centre of the British line, and carry their mission before the attack of the Prussians could take effect,

"About seven o'clock they advanced in two columns, leaving four battalions in reserve. They were commanded by Ney, who led them on. The advances of these columns of the Imperial Guard was supported by its heavy infantry of artillery. The British infantry, which had been posted on the reverse of the hill, to be sheltered from the guns, was instantly moved forward by Lord Wellington, General Maitland's brigade of guards and General Adam's brigade (1st and 2nd regiments, and 95th rifles) met this formidable attack. They were flanked by two batteries of artillery, who kept up a destructive discharge on the advancing columns. The troops waited for the approach of the French with their ehsiraetcrisic c«»<!*-«ness, until they were within a short distance of their line, when they opened a well-directed fire on them. This line was formed four deep. Each man fired independently, retiring a few paces to load, and then advanced again, so that they never ceased for a moment. The French, headed by their gallant leader, Bittell came on, notwithstanding; the severe loss they sustained by this desperate undertaking. They were now within about fifty yards of the British line, when they attempted to deploy, in order to return the fire. Their line appeared to be closing round them. They could not deploy under such a storm, and from this moment they ceased to advance their chance of success vanished. They immediately formed a confused mass, and at last giving way, retired in the utmost confusion. They were immediately pursued by the light troops of General Adam's brigade. Thus defeated the British, Napoleon had now exhausted his means

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